

COUNTRY PROFILES

Cyprus

The research into literature on Cyprus's approach to international cultural policy suggests that, in common with other smaller EU countries, it has a positive attitude towards cooperating with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world. This is because Cyprus is concerned with increasing its visibility worldwide and also with fostering tolerance and cultural understanding.

B i l a t e r a l A f f a i r s D i v i s i o n o f t h e M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n A f f a i r s

The Bilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has (amongst other areas) responsibility for the coordination of cultural policy and cooperation with other countries in order to promote Cypriot culture abroad.

M i n i s t r y o f E d u c a t i o n a n d C u l t u r e

The Ministry of Education and Culture is actively involved in the promotion of Cypriot Culture abroad. It is, for example, formulating a programme, Musical Cyprus in Europe, which considers the possibility of focussing not only on EU countries but also on creating links of cultural communication between Europe and neighbouring countries in the Middle East².

The Cyprus National Commission for United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation – UNESCO, operates under the Ministry of Education and Culture. It is responsible for all issues related to the goals of UNESCO and operates as a consulting body to the government.

P o l i c y f o c u s

The objective of Cyprus' foreign policy is to "have an active involvement in processes that aim to promote international cooperation, peace, stability and sustainable development". It claims that its geographical position enables it to play "a role both in the region, and within the European family. Its accession to the European Union will initiate a new era in its relations with other countries as a formal member of a group of states with which it shares common values, principles and ideals".

The goals of the Ministry of Education and Culture focus more distinctly on musical cooperation and exchange.

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

The website of the Bilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs claims to have bilateral agreements with more than 170 countries and representatives in more than thirty worldwide locations including: European Union Member States (Athens, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Hague, Helsinki, London, Lisbon, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna); neighbouring countries (Cairo, Damascus, Moscow, Tel Aviv, Belgrade) and further afield (Beijing, Canberra, Mexico, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Pretoria, Tehran, Tripoli, Washington).

As of 1 May 2004, Cyprus, as a member of the European Union, has participated in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership that numbers thirty-five participating States (see the section on neighbourhood policy in the Euro-Med area).

Specific programmes of bilateral agreements in the field of Education, Science and Culture have been created (and carried out by the Ministry of Education and Culture) with the following EU countries (Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Hungary and Poland); non EU neighbouring countries (Egypt, Bulgaria, Jordan, Israel, Russia, Romania and Syria); and finally, countries further afield (India, China and Mexico).

S e l e c t e d r e a d i n g

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Bilateral Affairs,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa.nsf/BilateralRelationsList?OpenForm>

Gives a general idea of Cypriot foreign policy and lists countries with which Cyprus holds bilateral agreements (where Cyprus has representation).

Ministry of Education and Culture, (2005) Annual Report 2004,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.moec.gov.cy/>

Annual report for 2004 of the Ministry of Education and Culture, including a section on international projects.

Ministry of Education and Culture, (2005) Cyprus National Commission for United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation - UNESCO,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.unesco.org.cy/english/theCommission.shtm>

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F u r t h e r b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

□ Ministry of Education and Culture, (2005) Intercultural dialogue,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.unesco.org.cy/english/interculturalDialogue.shtm>

According to its constitution, the objective of UNESCO is to contribute to the predominance of peace, security and stability in the world. For this reason, UNESCO is working to create conditions of real dialogue between different cultures. The promotion and implementation of intercultural dialogue is realised through a variety of programmes based on cooperation and the development of relations between member-states. www.unesco.org/culture/dialogue

Ministry of Education and Culture, (2005) Cultural Diversity,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.unesco.org.cy/english/culturalDiversity.shtm>

UNESCO is currently in the process of consultation and dialogue with member-states and the European Union for the preparation of the Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions. Cyprus is participating in the process via the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports – Cyprus,

E-Doc Link:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdfword/annex1_national_reports1.pdf

Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.